

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2018 • 12:00pm

STEM Action Center: 60 East South Temple, Suite 850, Salt Lake City

Members Present: Angie Tymofichuk, Dee Knight (by phone), Justin Lee, Jason Maestri, Eric Pope, Brian Parker, Brad Shafer, Cari VandeVeegaete, Brian Verwer, Mark Ripke (by phone)

Members Absent: Joseph Spence

Staff: Tami Goetz, Allison Spencer, Lolly Bowler, Sue Redington

I. Welcome and Related Business

The meeting begun and everyone introduced themselves. Board chair, Angie Tymofichuk proposed the idea of appointing a Vice Chair, and asked everyone to think about who would be a good candidate and come back with ideas next time.

Allison Spencer showed a thank you video sent from Eastwood Elementary, thanking the Utah STEM Bus for visiting their school. She went over the newly created infographic sheet about the STEM Bus and the STEM Foundation, distributed to the board members present to look at. She also talked about the STEM Action Center social media, gave all of the links and page names and asked them to look at and follow them. The board member bios and photos have been put up on the website. We have also allocated some funding to improving the website. She also brought up the STEM Day on the Hill and invited the board members to attend if they can.

II. Board Discussion

Tami Goetz mentioned that we can distribute fact sheets about all of the STEM Action Center programs to the board members so that they can get an idea of what the STEM Action Center is all about. Allison talked about how the foundation will be the main funding supply of the STEM Action Center. Board members do not have to fundraise, unless they want to or have personal connections or relationships that they would like to utilize. Any funding opportunities can be shared with Allison. The STEM Action center is accountable to the legislators for showing outcomes. If there are any programs that board members are interested in supporting, please share.

Allison Spencer shared the American Indian Services flyer about their summer PREP program. Tami Goetz shared the background of the PREP program. It is a 6-week, 3 year program. Industry partners help teach the courses. She was able to visit the one in Blanding. Parents come from other states and drop off their kids for the 6 weeks because it is such a beneficial program. The kids learn a lot of skills, it raises the rate of finishing high school and prepares them for college.

We've given a lot of legislative funding to PREP programs through organization grants. They (American Indian Services-AIS) asked the foundation if they would be willing to give funding for a kit of FuzePlay Frisbees. It will cost \$2,500. The money would come from a donation from

IMFlash. Allison asked if anyone would like to make a motion to approve a \$2,500 donation for the AIS PREP Program. The motion made by Brian Parker and seconded by Eric Pope. Brian Verwer said that IMFlash is in support of this donation and will be sending employees to help teach, etc. Eric Pope mentioned that U.S. Synthetic sends people down to Blanding a couple of times a year, he isn't sure which program they send them for. There is not a lot of coordination between different programs, but U.S. Synthetic is wanting to contribute teachers and curriculum. They already have some in place that they can share. Allison Spencer mentioned that there is a Junior Achievement Career Fair there, AIS didn't know and it's 30 minutes from them.

Tami Goetz spoke to the SB-190 Computing Pathways Initiative, saying that principals ask "what can I do here?" Brian Parker offered that he will be going down south every few weeks for some of MHTN's programs and that he has contact with a lot of the principals in those areas. Tami Goetz pointed out that supporting rural communities is a big deal right now. Jason Maestri mentioned that he has nieces and nephews in rural communities, and they don't have many opportunities through school. A lot of schools in rural areas supplement with online high school which makes a big difference. Brian Parker said that there is this feeling that you must leave a rural community in order to be successful. This needs to be changed so that they can find success within the rural community.

Everyone voted on the proposed funding for American Indian Services (AIS) and the earlier motion was unanimously approved. Allison Spencer spoke about how this is the first funding opportunity of the foundation and that many more ideas and programs will come up. Another idea that the STEM Action Center has had is to work with Girls Who Code to fund coding clubs for girls throughout the state. Tami Goetz talked about Girls Who Code and their 7 week summer program. Adobe, EBay and Goldman Sachs all support summer programs, but not in Utah. It's expensive and has a relatively small impact. She wasn't a huge fan of the program at first because there should be less expensive ways to have a higher impact. However, they've developed the Girls Who Code Club program, with free materials to facilitate a club during the school year. They provide training for the facilitator and a hotline for them to call with questions. A way that the foundation could support would be to have a sponsor fund a swag bag for each girl who participates and snacks for their 2 hour club meetings each week. There are many schools and libraries that are interested in starting clubs. The rural communities don't have enough girls to call it a "club" necessarily, they would also want to involve boys. They could call it "Kids Who Code." The CEO/Founder of Girls Who Code will be coming to Utah on February 22nd. WGU is bringing her in and she will be speaking there. She has offered her morning to do a "kick-off" for a Girls Who Code program. Our goal is to have about 50 clubs in the state or more. If we could get that many schools or libraries to commit to starting a club next fall, that would be worthy of a kick-off celebration. We have drafted up a budget and we can find sponsors. It's a really easy volunteer opportunity to have people from companies facilitate these club meetings.

Allison Spencer spoke to the fact that it's a good start-off point for a foundation to fund a program like this. She made a motion to move forward with the Girls Who Code Club program; to help find sponsorship for 51 Girls Who Code Clubs. The motion was seconded by Jason Maestri and Justin Lee, and was anonymously approved by the board.

Angie Tymofichuk talked about the details of the kick-off event and that it would be great to have one of the foundation board companies host the event. Justin Lee offered the Microsoft Coding Office in Lehi and suggested Adobe as a possible location.

Angie Tymofichuk gave an update on her findings from the assignment she gave last meeting. She contacted some companies in Utah to see what their focus is and how they are able to give donations, what they want to fund, etc. Eric Pope reached out to partners that U.S. Synthetic works with. A lot of the companies have programs in place, but they don't communicate with each other. Ken Garff has a program, but Adobe has a program they like better, etc. We connect well with other companies that are more about teaching, and giving time instead of money. A lot of our companies want to move in the direction of elevating education by putting in volunteer hours teaching. Brian Verwer met with Ancestry and Ebay; he needs to meet with them again now that he has a better idea of what to ask. IMFlash gives \$1 million a year. They give \$150,000 to Alpine SD for math clubs and programming. It's great to see improvement in math scores, etc. and have that kind of impact on the community.

Tami Goetz asked if everyone is familiar with STEM MX. The STEM Action Center board voted to put some leftover funds towards supporting the STEM MX app. Neumont University is helping with the tech support and to improve the web-based programming. The app provides a way to track volunteer hours. Brian Verwer said that it sends you updates about what programs are near you that are in need of volunteers.

Mark Ripke went over what Boeing does; that they have 3 pillars that they focus on. One is "Tomorrow's Innovators." They support workforce preparation, as well as focusing on "Our Heroes" (veterans). They focus on post-secondary talent. What kind of an impact do we have on a community and can we track the results?

Jason Maestri spoke about the efforts of Lockheed Martin and what they bring to STEM Fest. He mentioned that competition is a good motivator between sites. They have connections with solar companies in Utah, Symantec, GE, and Vivint. They're looking for how they can help, trying to direct them to the foundation.

Brad Shafer talked about Andeavor and their efforts in STEM. He also talked about his son who benefited from the IMFlash programs in Alpine. Justin Lee mentioned that he will be presenting to a trade committee next month and will speak about STEM.

Allison Spencer talked about how she has contacted credit unions and banks, and found that they focus on financial literacy. Dee Knight mentioned that she has been in contact with Mountain America Credit Union. In the last meeting, she went over what Comcast invests in.

Allison Spencer said that a lot of companies want to give to the STEM Bus program, because of the visibility. She also talked about other companies or industries that we want better relationships with.

Tami Goetz gave an update on computers that were donated by Orbital ATK, the InfiniD Lab program and the need for supplies in refugee centers. Angie Tymofichuk pointed out that we can share those needs with companies, that if they have anything used that still has life, they can donate items like computers.

Brian Verwer asked if we can we utilize chambers. He is a member of the Lehi Chamber and doesn't know if it's appropriate to reach out to them. We could contact them about the Girls Who Code club program. That would be a good way to contact representatives from multiple local businesses.

Jason Maestri mentioned that Primary Children's Hospital just did a refresh and might have computers to donate. Justin Lee said that Microsoft could help with the refresh of donated computers. Tami Goetz said that there are some programs where the kids are learning how to repair things. Even if we can't use them, if we find donated ones, the kids can work with them. Talked about BAK USA computers which are manufactured in the U.S. They are considering opening a repair facility in the west.

Angie Tymofichuk thanked everyone for the great input. What are some issues that we are facing considering companies who are not based in Utah, fundraising, etc.? What do we want to take away from this meeting? Allison Spencer suggested that this meeting's homework could be to find 5 companies to sponsor Girls Who Code clubs.

III. Meeting Adjourned